

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:M.TANNER:WES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056198

EXDIS, TOSEC 435

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MONTEVIDEO FROM LIMA 2036

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2036

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY FROM ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN BLANCO

1. SUMMARY: WE COVERED THE WATERFRONT WITH URUGUAYAN FONMIN BLANCO. HIS POSITION IS OURS ON VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING (BUT AS TO CUBA SEE SEPTTEL). HE IS A MAJOR FORCE FOR GOOD AND WISDOM IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. A PITY YOU CANNOT STOP IN URUGUAY. END SUMMARY.

2. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. BLANCO EMBRACED THE IDEA OF LIMITING GENERAL DEBATE, IN PART BECAUSE IT WILL REDUCE THE DOSE OF RHETORIC, IN PART BECAUSE IT COULD BE A FIRST STEP IN THE MERGER OF THE NEW DIALOGUE AND THE OAS. BLANCO PLEDGED HIS BEST EFFORTS TO AVOID EXCESSES DURING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION ON THE TRADE ACT AND
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URUGUAYAN AGENDA ITEM ON RAW MATERIALS, THOUGH HE WAS

AWARE THAT BOTH WERE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE.

3. YOUR SPEECH. BLANCO HAD PARSED ALL OF YOUR SPEECH AND MEMORIZED LARGE PORTIONS OF IT. HE EMBRASED IT, THE FIRM TALK ABOUT CONFRONTATIONN INCLUDED.

4. OAS SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. URUGUAYA IS PLEDGED TO SEPENA PASTOR, FONMIN OF PARAGUAY, BUT FEELS THAT THE REAL CHALLENGE IS TO AVOID A DIVISION OF THE HOUSE ON THE ELECTION.

5. TRADE ACT. I THANKED BLANCO FOR DISPATCHING THE GOU MINISTER OF ECONOMY TO THE WASHINGTON IA-ECOSOC MEETING SINCE HE WILL BE A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE. AS IT HAPPENED MINISTER VEGH WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING. I TOLD BLANCO WE WERE DISCUSSING AMENDMENTS AND HOPE TO HAVE FIRM NEWS BY EARLY APRIL ABOUT CHANGES IN THE OPEC PROVISION. THE GOU HAS STUDIED THE TRADE ACT CAREFULLY AND SEES ITS ADVANTAGES. URUGUAY'S REAL CONCERN NOW IS IN SELLING ITS MEAT ON THE WORLD MARKET, BUT IT ALSO WANTS HELP FROM US DIRECTLY IN HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE TECNICALITIES OF THE TRADE ACT, AND OUR CONSIDERATION IN AVOIDING A UNILATERAL DEFINITION OF SUBSIDIES WHEN WE COME TO APPLYING THE NEW COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROVISIONS.

6. OAS REFORM. BLANCO SAID THAT THE OAS MUST BE REFORMED FUNDAMENTALLY OR DIE. THE SURFACE CHANGES PROPOSED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ARE NOT ENOUGH. THE TECHNICIANS AND LAWYERS HAVING COME UP WITH A MOUSE, IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE STATESMEN TO MOVE BOLDLY. PERHAPS, HE SUGGESTED, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MOVE THE ORGANIZATION OR PARTS OF IT OUT OF WASHINGTON TO CHANGE ITS IMAGE IN LATIN AMERICA. BLANCO ALSO FAVORS THE IDEA OF A DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND URGES THAT THE REVISED OAS BE ABLE TO MEET ON REGIONAL AND LATIN ISSUES AS WELL AS PURELY INTER-AMERICAN QUESTIONS. HE MUCH PREFERENCES TO HAVE SUCH MEETINGS IN THE BOSOM OF THE OAS RATHER THAN IN THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) PROPOSED BY VENEZUELA AND MEXICO. I COMMENTED THAT WE WERE NOT CERTAIN WHAT SELA WOULD FINALLY LOOK LIKE. WE HAD NOT, THEREFORE, OPENLY OPPOSED IT.

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